Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: YAGR, ETRD, BR

SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN EXPORT INCENTIVES ON SOYBEANS

REFS: (A) STATE 2862, (B) 75 BRASILIA 11032

1. SUMMARY OF BENEFITS CONTAINED IN REF A IS ESSENTIALLY

ACCURATE SUBJECT TO THE CHANGES BELOW:

2. PARA 2.A.1: ICM AND IPI TAXES.

--A) DOMESTIC SALES OF SOYBEAN OIL HAVE CARRIED ONNIWX#

TAX NO HIGHER THAN 14.5 PERCENT (AND THAT IN SAO PAULO STATE), RATHER THAN 15.5 PERCENT (THE RATE REPORTED IN REF B, PARAS 2(B)(3) AND 5). THE 14.5 PERCENT RATE DECLINES TO 14.0 PERCENT ON JANUARY 1, 1976.

--B) SOYBEAN OIL SOLD IN BULK IS NOT LIABLE TO IPI TAX, AS REPORTED IN REF B, BUT THE CRUSHER MUST PAY IPI TAX ON OIL SOLD IN CANS FOR CONSUMER USE. ALL OIL EXPORTED IS OF COURSE SOLD IN BULK: MOST OIL SOLD DOMESTICALLY IS SOLD IN CANS.
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3. PARA 2.A.2: "SOY PRODUCTS ARE EXEMPT FROM THE IPI." THE IPI IS NOT APPLICABLE TO SOYBEANS SINCE THEY ARE AN UNPROCESSED PRODUCT: THE IPI RATE IS ZERO ON MEAL AND ON OIL SOLD IN BULK AS IT IS FOR MANY SEMI-PROCESSED FOOD AND FEED PRODUCTS.

4 PARA

2.A.3: ICM AND IPI CREDITS. ALTHOUGH, AS NOTED IN REF B. PARA 4. LARGE CRUSHERS SEEM TO BE ALBBLE TO UTILIZE IPI AND ECM CREDITS RATHER QUICKUP: SMALLER OR LESS INTEGRATED CRUSHERS MIGHT HAVE LESS OPPORTUNITY TO USE THE CREDITS, BUT WE HAVE NO DATA ON UTILIZATION OF CREDITS BY SMALLER FIRMS. IF SUCH FIRMS DO NOT UTILIZE ALL THEIR CREDITS AGAINST THEIR OWN OTHER DOMESTIC TAX LIABILITIES, EXPERIENCE FROM COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATIONS INDICATES THAT IT COULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO BENEFIT FROM THESE INCENTIVES FULLY. BECAUSE OF THE LIMITS ON THE USE OF THESE CREDITS, SUPPLIERS MIGHT BE HESITANT TO RECEIVE CREDITS IN EXCHANGE FOR MERCHANDISE. WITH RESPECT TO OBTAINING A CASH REBATE, THIS APPLIES ONLY TO THEIPI CREDIT ANDONLY UNDER VERY RESTRICTTIVE CONDITIONS THAT THE RAW MATERIAL, INTERMEDIATE PRODUCTS AND PACKING MATERIALS CONTAINED IN THE EXPORTED PRODUCT DO NOT EXCEED 50 PERCENT OF THE F.O.B. VALUE OF THE PRODUCT, AN REQUIREMENT WHICH PROBABLY EXCLUDES CRUSHERS. THE ICM TAX CREDIT IS NOT REBATABLE.

5. PARA 2.B.3:

--A) WE POINT OUT THAT IPI CREDITS CAN BE USED ONLY AGAINST OTHER IPI LIABILITIES, AND ICM CREDITS AGAINST OTHER ICM LIABILITIES. THE GOB HASNOT YET NEGOTIATED AGREEMENTS WITH STATE GOVERNMENTS TO PERMIT UTILIZATION OF ICM CREDITS AGAINST IPI LIABILITIES.

--B) REGARDING THE COMMEN, "CRUSHERS MAY.. AVOID THE 5 PERCENT TAX ON MEAL EXPORTS BY SELLING MEAL UNTAXED IN THE DOMESTIC MARKET," THIS, WHILE TRUE LITERALLY, IS POSSIBLE IN PRACTICE ONLY FOR ABOUT 25 PERCENT OF MEAL OUTPUT BECAUSE OF THELIMITED DOMESTIC MARKET FOR MEAL.

6. PARA 2.B.4: INCOME TAX. CACEX AND TRADE SOURCES HAVE CONFIRMED THAT PROFITS EARNED FROM EXPORTS OF OIL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARE EXEMPT FROM INCOME TAX, WHICH IS 30 PERCENT: INCOME EARNED FROM EXPORTS OF MEAL AND BEANS IS NOT EXEMPT. THE BENEFITS TO A CRUSHER OF IPI AND ICM CREDITS ON OIL EXPORTS, WHICH LOWER A CRUSHER'S OTHER TAX LIABILITIES AND THUS INCREASE HIS PROFITS, ARE REDUCED TO THE EXTENT THAT THE HIGHER PROFITS (NOT ON OIL EXPORTS) ACCRUE INCOME TAX LIABILITIES. THEMATHEMATICAL EXAMPLE IN PARA 2.B.4 SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THIS INDIRECT EFFECT. (ALSO THE EXAMPLE

APPEARS TO USE INCORRECT TERMINOLOGY: THE WORD "PROFIT" SHOULD BE SUBSTITUTED FOR "REVENUE" TO AVOID CONFUSION.)

7. PARA 2.B.5: LOW INTEREST LOANS. ALTHOUGH RESOLUTION
71 FINANCING BEARS A LOW INTEREST RATE, 8 PERCENT, PRIVATE
BANKERS, WE LEARNED IN THE COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION
ON HANDBAGS, CHARGE AN INDIRECT COST.—THEY
REQUIRE AS A GUARANTEE COMPENSATING BALANCES (DEPOSITED
IN THE LENDING BANK) AMOUNTING TO AN AVERAGE OF
30 PERCENT OF THE OUTSTANDING BLANCE OF THE LOAN. IN
ADDITION, WHILE RESOLUTION 71 APPLIES ONLY TO EXPORTS, THERE
ARE OTHER LOW-INTEREST FINANCING SOURCES AVAILABLE FOR SOYBEAN
PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.
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